

Toolkit

HELPING YOU CARE FOR YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS | ISSUE 4, 2024

WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY FASTEST GROWING

The United States' fastest-growing field is in the wind energy industry. **Wind turbine service technician is the fastest-growing job in the country**, with 60% growth projected between 2023-2033, according to the 2024 U.S. Energy and Employment Jobs Report. North Dakota, South Dakota and Colorado have the most energy-related jobs, while **Texas has the highest number of wind energy jobs overall, at about 27,400**. While the overall number of wind turbines is still quite small for the country, it is expected for the field to continue growing as the federal government continues to encourage production of the alternative energy.



HURRICANE RELIEF MATCHING GRANT

Communities in the southeastern United States are working to recover from a series of devastating hurricanes in 2024, and **Everence® has committed \$100,000 toward relief efforts**. In October 2024, Everence kicked off Everence Helps: Hurricane Relief, a matching gift initiative. **From Oct. 14, to Dec. 31, 2024, Everence will match up to \$50,000 in donations made to Everence Foundation.** Any individual, church or organization – whether an Everence member or not – may participate in the initiative. All of the funds raised will go to trusted partner organizations. Everence donated an additional \$50,000 to Mennonite Disaster Service.

THIS COUNTRY COMPOSTS 98% OF ITS FOOD WASTE

South Korea has managed to establish a system through which they compost **nearly all of their food waste, a major jump from 2.6% back in 1996**. The LA Times reports it took several decades and much trial-and-error to get to where they are, with changing the minds of residents to help dispose properly of their food waste being one of the hardest aspects of adopting the new system. The effectiveness of South Korea's system has made it a model case for other countries, many of which have reached out for advice. **Their next goal is to reduce the amount of food waste generated.**

NOTRE DAME REVIVAL PLAN INCLUDES GREEN UPDATES



Notre Dame is open to the public, five years after a fire broke out that resulted in the collapse of its spire. But beyond restoring the historic cathedral, **the city of Paris plans to revamp Notre Dame's surroundings, investing 50 million euros**. The project is a continuation of the revitalization of historic and public spaces in the city following the 2024 Olympics. The plan includes creating 1,800 square meters of green space and planting 160 trees, integrating nature and the Seine – the river crossing through the heart of the city – more fully. The project's completion date is set for 2030.



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CHURCHES IN SOUTH SUDAN UNITE TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS

Heavy spring rains have brought about destructive flooding in South Sudan, displacing more than 750,000 people. The floods have become an annual event, **prompting local pastors and religious leaders to join nongovernmental organizations to help protect South Sudanese communities**, particularly farmlands. The churches are actively involved in **building dikes and collaborating with NGOs to plan water management infrastructure that is sustainable**, with the capacity to retain water for use during droughts. The church leaders are also calling on the government and other faith-based organizations to join them in helping vulnerable communities in the region.



EVERENCE PARTNERS WITH GREENLIGHT

Everence Federal Credit Union recently partnered with Greenlight **to offer its services to EFCU members for free**¹. Greenlight is a money management app and debit card built with families in mind and for kids of all ages. With the Greenlight debit card, **parents can give allowance, assign chores, and set up financial goals while helping kids learn to earn, save, and spend wisely**. The app also includes features like real-time spending notifications, savings goals, and even a financial wellness game called Greenlight Level Up™, which helps kids understand key financial concepts. To try it out, visit greenlight.com/everence on your phone to download the app.

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AVERAGE OWED ON CAR LOANS HITS ALL-TIME HIGH

A growing number of Americans with auto loans **owe more than their cars are currently worth**, according to data from Edmunds, a company that offers resources to car dealers and consumers. **More than one in five consumers owe more than \$10,000 on their auto loans**. Contributing factors include car dealers selling above the manufacturer's suggested retail price during a time of shortages in 2021 and 2022, and car shoppers increasingly opting into longer loan terms to reduce monthly payments. Edmunds suggests consumers shop for incentives and lower financing, and to hold on to their cars longer before trading them.

ONE-LEG STANCE GOOD TEST FOR HEALTH

How long you can balance on one leg can be a good test of your health, according to a new study. Scientists at the Mayo Clinic found that **the amount of time one could hold a one-legged stance declined** at the rate of 2.2 seconds per decade in the nondominant side and at the rate of 1.7 seconds per decade in the dominant side. Balance is important for injury prevention. **Those who are unable to balance on one leg for more than five seconds could be at risk of falling more**. A good rule of thumb is to be able to hold the stance for about 30 seconds or longer for those 69 and younger, removing 10 seconds for every decade after.



Toolkit is published quarterly for people who attend churches with ties to the Anabaptist faith tradition.

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